

# Church Mentoring Network



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## What is A Church Mentoring Network?

The Church Mentoring Network is a group of churches that conduct, or wish to conduct, mentoring programs for young people in their churches, schools and neighborhoods. The Network serves as a resource center for churches, providing an array of services that often include:

- **Training and support** for church mentoring program coordinators, mentors, young people, parents and caregivers;
- **Partnerships** with other community organizations and institutions to generate additional resources, mentors, and support for church mentoring programs; and
- **Awareness and recognition activities** to promote church mentoring, encourage its replication and generate more resources and support for it.

## Why join A Church Mentoring Network?

- **Makes it easier** and more cost effective to deliver quality mentoring to children;
- **Relieves** already overburdened volunteers and staff by sharing program responsibilities;
- **Sparks creativity** and problem solving among church mentoring programs;
- **Reduces duplication** of effort by sharing resources and services-such as best practices, training, information sharing, and joint activities for mentors and young people;
- **Helps churches** collectively tap into new resources and information;
- **Provides a forum** for collective prayer to guide ministry among network participants; and
- **Builds community** awareness of churches' efforts and their impact on children.

Every church is blessed with the unique talents, skills and expertise of its staff, volunteers and young people. Most likely, however, an individual church may not have everything it needs to make its mentoring program a sustained, long-term success.

When a church "**invests**" or pools resources with other churches, through a Church Mentoring Network, it multiplies its blessings and enhances those of others.

### **Putting Brotherly Love in Action: The Philadelphia Church Mentoring Network Experience**

Leaders of Philadelphia's African-American Churches, One to One/The Greater Philadelphia Mentoring Partnership, and the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and its Volunteer Center, recognized the strengths of African-American churches and established the Church Mentoring Network in 1991 to initiate and enhance religious-based mentoring programs while facilitating connections with various sectors of the community. Network founders and leaders included The Rev. Dr. Gus Roman, member of One to One/The Greater Philadelphia Mentoring Partnership Leadership Council, Christine James Brown, president of United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and George Ross, chair of One to One/The Greater Philadelphia Mentoring Partnership and Senior Partner, Goldman Sachs.

More than seventy churches belong to the network. Each church creates its own mentoring program based on its needs, interests and resources. The Church Mentoring Network supports the individual programs by providing blueprints for developing a program; training church coordinators and mentors' sharing information, tools and ideas among churches; and helping solve common problems.

These are a bi-annual newsletter, an annual picnic and a Christmas party. The Network coordinates the Church Mentoring Network Basketball League for young men and Steppers Drill Competition for young women, a choir, and a discount program for tickets to theater or sporting events for mentors and young people. The network gets needed support from One to One/The Philadelphia Mentoring Partnership and The United Way VOLUNTEER CENTER of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

If your church...

- ✓ Has a mentoring program
- ✓ Wants to start a mentoring program
- ✓ Wants more information on mentoring or the Church Mentoring Network

Please contact -- (800) 444-3066

The only way to rescue kids from the seductions of the drug and gang cultures is with another, more powerful set of values; a substitute family for young people who almost never have two parents, and may not even have one, at home...

And the only institution with the spiritual message and the physical presence to offer those traditional values...is the church."

Newsweek, June 1, 1998, "Gangs and God"

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